

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01 PA-01

PM-04 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /039 W

----- 063269

O 111754Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3008

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SCHLESINGER, JAMES), PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: SECDEF VISIT TO PARIS

REF: (A) PARIS 22493; (B) SECDEF 4858

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH HAVE GIVEN US PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR SECDEF VISIT SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SECDEF'S REACTION TO SCHEDULE, AS WELL AS RESPONSES TO OTHER QUESTIONS IN PARA 5 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. GERARD HIBON (BOURGES' DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR) HAS PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE REGARDING SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT TO PARIS:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

1700 SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ARRIVES PARIS/ORLY. MET AT AIRPORT BY DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO HOTEL CRILLON. REST OF DAY FREE.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

0900 MEETING AT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR DISCUSSION OF GENERAL DEFENSE SITUATION, INCLUDING FRENCH APPRECIATION OF THE THREAT AND THE STRATEGY THEY HAVE ADOPTED IN RESPONSE TO THAT THREAT.

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1115 SECDEF CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC, FOLLOWED  
BY DEPARTURE FOR TAVERNY.

1330 SHORT, WORKING LUNCH AT TAVERNY STRATEGIC AIR  
COMMAND POST, FOLLOWED BY TOUR OF COMMAND POST  
AND DISCUSSION OF FRENCH COMMAND AND CONTROL  
SYSTEM FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

1600 RETURN TO DEFENSE MINISTRY FOR DISCUSSIONS  
FOCUSING ON BILATERAL FRANCO-AMERICAN DEFENSE  
RELATIONSHIP.

2015 FORMAL DINNER FOR SECDEF HOSTED BY BOURGES, WITH  
APPROXIMATELY 40 GUESTS.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

0830 DEPART PARIS BY AIR FOR FRENCH SSBN BASE AT  
ILE LONGUE NEAR BREST IN BRITTANY.

1000 ARRIVE AT ILE LONGUE FOR TOUR OF SSBN FACILITY.

1200 DEPART ILE LONGUE BY AIR, LIGHT LUNCH SERVED  
EN ROUTE.

1300 ARRIVE AT MISSILE TEST CENTER AT MONT DE MARSAN  
(SOUTH OF BORDEAUX IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDES)  
FOR BRIEFING ON FRENCH STRATEGIC MISSILE  
DEVELOPMENTS.

1430 DEPART MONT DE MARSAN.

1500 ARRIVE PAU (SLIGHTLY TO THE SOUTHEAST OF MONT DE  
MARSAN, AND HEADQUARTERS OF ELEVENTH AIRBORNE  
DIVISION).

1530 OBSERVE MANEUVERS BY ELEMENTS OF 11TH AIRBORNE  
DIVISION.

1700 DEPART PAU BY AIR.

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1800 ARRIVE LES BAUX DE PROVENCE (CLOSE TO MARSEILLES)  
FOR OVERNIGHT STAY, PROBABLY AT HOTEL OUSTAU DE  
BAUMANIERE.

2000 DINNER AT HOTEL (BY GENERAL AGREEMENT ONE OF THE  
FINEST RESTAURANTS IN ALL OF FRANCE).

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23437

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

0630 LEAVE HOTEL FOR VISIT TO ORNITHOLOGICAL STATION  
(FAMOUS FOR ITS PINK FLAMINGOS) LOCATED IN  
NEARBY NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE OF THE CAMARGUE

0930 DEPART BY AIR FOR PARIS.

1100 ARRIVE PARIS, FOLLOWED BY SECDEF DEPARTURE FOR  
U.S.

PLEASE NOTE: SOME TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, AND MAY  
CHANGE AS PROGRAM IS REFINED.

3. COMMENTING ON ABOVE SCHEDULE, HIBON SAID THAT BOURGES  
WOULD LIKE TO COME TO AIRPORT TO WELCOME SECRETARY  
SCHLESINGER ON HIS ARRIVAL SEPTEMBER 28, ALTHOUGH FORMAL  
VISIT DOES NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE NEXT DAY. HIBON ADDED THAT  
TRAVEL AROUND FRANCE WOULD BE BY EIGHT-PLACE MYSTERE-20  
FOR SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE PARTY (4 FRENCH, 4 US) WITH  
CARAVELLE BACKUP PLANE FOR REST OF PARTY. SHORTER HOPS  
WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY HELICOPTER AND/OR CAR. BOURGES  
WILL ACCOMPANY SECDEF ON SIDE-TRIPS, BUT MAY HAVE TO  
RETURN TO PARIS LATE SEPTEMBER 30 TO ATTEND MORNING

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CABINET MEETING AT ELYSEE FOLLOWING DAY. MONDAY NIGHT DINNER NORMALLY WOULD BE FOR GUESTS PLUS WIVES. IF MRS. SCHLESINGER DOES NOT ACCOMPANY SECDEF (PER STATE 215589 JUST RECEIVED) FRENCH WOULD STILL PLAN TO INVITE WIVES, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE PREPARED TO HAVE STAG DINNER IF SECDEF PREFERS. HIBON WONDERED ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT THAT SECDEF MAY NEED WHILE HE IS AWAY FROM PARIS, AND ASKED THAT WE INQUIRE WHETHER THIS POSED PROBLEMS FOR TRIPS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OUTSIDE OF PARIS AREA. HE ADDED THAT FRENCH WOULD PROVIDE REQUIRED SECURITY BUT ASSUMED SECDEF SECURITY STAFF WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH FRENCH ON SECURITY MATTERS SOON. HIBON ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT SECDEF'S PREFERENCES RE PRESS: DOES HE WANT TO BLOCK OUT TIME TO MEET WITH PRESS? IF SO, WHEN, WHERE AND WHO?

4. COMMUNIQUE: PER PARA 2, REF B, WE DISCUSSED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH HIBON WHO -- ON PURELY PERSONAL BASIS -- THOUGHT THAT COMMUNIQUE WOULD NOT BE NEEDED. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY HAS PREPARED DRAFT COMMUNIQUE IN CASE IT MIGHT BE NEEDED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) VISIT SCENARIO - WE WOULD APPRECIATE SECDEF'S EARLY COMMENTS ON PROGRAM DESCRIBED ABOVE.

(B) DINNER - INDICATION OF SECDEF'S PREFERENCE FOR MONDAY NIGHT DINNER. LEFT TO THEIR OWN, FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE WIVES. HOWEVER, FRENCH ARE QUITE PREPARED TO KEEP DINNER STAG IF SECDEF WOULD PREFER.

(C) PRESS - RE REFS A AND B, FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO HOLD PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER 19, BUT WE WILL NEED TO COORDINATE LANGUAGE OF WASHINGTON AND PARIS RELEASES WELL IN ADVANCE OF THAT DATE. WE ALSO NEED RESPONSE TO HIBON'S QUESTIONS RE POSSIBLE SECDEF MEETING WITH THE PRESS.

(D) COMPOSITION OF PARTY - WE WILL NEED NAMES AND TITLES OF SECDEF PARTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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## Message Attributes

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